

Preface

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DRAFT

Magnetic Resonance (MR) Coil – Performance Criteria for Safety and Performance Based Pathway

Draft Guidance for Industry and Food and Drug Administration Staff

This draft guidance, when finalized, will represent the current thinking of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA or Agency) on this topic. It does not establish any rights for any person and is not binding on FDA or the public. You can use an alternative approach if it satisfies the requirements of the applicable statutes and regulations. To discuss an alternative approach, contact the FDA staff or Office responsible for this guidance as listed on the title page.

I. Introduction

This draft guidance provides performance criteria for magnetic resonance (MR) coils in support of the [Safety and Performance Based Pathway](#).¹ Under this framework, submitters planning to submit a 510(k) using the Safety and Performance Based Pathway for MR coils will have the option to use the performance criteria proposed in this draft guidance to support substantial equivalence, rather than a direct comparison of the performance of the subject device to that of a predicate device.

For the current edition of the FDA-recognized standard(s) referenced in this document, see the [FDA Recognized Consensus Standards Database](#).² For more information regarding use of consensus standards in regulatory submissions, please refer to the FDA guidance titled [Appropriate Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards in Premarket Submissions for Medical Devices](#).³

FDA's guidance documents, including this draft guidance, do not establish legally enforceable responsibilities. Instead, guidances describe the Agency's current thinking on a topic and should

¹ Available at <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/safety-and-performance-based-pathway>

² Available at <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfStandards/search.cfm>

³ Available at <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/appropriate-use-voluntary-consensus-standards-premarket-submissions-medical-devices>

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80 be viewed only as recommendations, unless specific regulatory or statutory requirements are
81 cited. The use of the word *should* in Agency guidance means that something is suggested or
82 recommended, but not required.
83

84 **II. Scope/Device Description**

85 The MR coils that are the subject of this guidance are intended to produce images of human
86 anatomy for general diagnostic use by trained clinicians. These MR coils are Class II and are
87 regulated under 21 CFR 892.1000 Magnetic resonance diagnostic device, with the product code
88 MOS (Coil, Magnetic Resonance, Specialty).
89

90 **Intended Use/Indications for Use:**

91 The MR coils that fall within the scope of this guidance document are intended for
92 hydrogen/proton imaging. These devices are intended to have no patient contact or intended only
93 for limited contact with intact skin (i.e., no endocavity coils). MR coils intended for specific
94 clinical indications (for example, disease identification or rule-out, diagnosis or prognosis with
95 respect to disease staging or severity, and prevention or reduction in morbidity and/or mortality
96 associated with particular diseases) or specifically intended for use with imaging agents are out of
97 the scope of this document.
98

99 **Device Design Characteristics:**

100 The MR coils that fall within the scope of this guidance document are designed to be air-cooled
101 (i.e., no water-cooled or cryogen-cooled electronics). In addition, only receive-only RF coils are
102 within the scope of this guidance.
103

104 General guidance that is beyond the scope of this safety and performance guidance document
105 regarding submission of a 510(k) for MR coils (i.e., labeling), can be found in FDA's guidance
106 [Submission of Premarket Notifications for Magnetic Resonance Diagnostic Devices](#).⁴
107

108 Where FDA determines that additional data are necessary to make these determinations, the
109 Agency may, on a case-by-case basis, review that data before determining whether or not the
110 device is appropriate for the Safety and Performance Based Pathway. In situations, where you
111 determine that additional testing outside of those identified in this guidance are necessary to
112 make a determination regarding eligibility into the Safety and Performance Based Pathway, we
113 would encourage sponsors to submit a Pre-Submission⁵ to engage in discussion with FDA prior
114 to submission of the 510(k).
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⁴ Available at <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/submission-premarket-notifications-magnetic-resonance-diagnostic-devices>

⁵ Available at <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/requests-feedback-and-meetings-medical-device-submissions-q-submission-program>

118 III. Testing Performance Criteria

119 If your device is appropriate for submission through the Safety and Performance Based Pathway,
120 and you choose to use that option, you do not need to provide direct comparison testing against a
121 legally marketed predicate device to demonstrate substantially equivalent performance
122 characteristics. To ensure that the performance criteria outlined in this guidance remain
123 contemporary and take into account relevant data from recent clearances, FDA recommends that
124 you provide a results summary for all tests evaluated in addition to the other submission
125 information (e.g., Declaration of Conformity (DoC)) identified for each test or evaluation below.
126 Unless otherwise identified in the submission information sections below, test information such
127 as results summary, test protocols, or complete test reports should be submitted as part of the
128 510(k) as described in FDA’s guidance [Safety and Performance Based Pathway](#).⁶ For additional
129 information regarding the submission of non-clinical bench testing information, please see
130 FDA’s guidance [Recommended Content and Format of Non-Clinical Bench Performance
131 Testing Information in Premarket Submissions](#).⁷

- 133 1. **Test name:** Image Signal to Noise (SNR)
134 **Methodology:** Conformance to one of the following FDA recognized consensus
135 standards (as applicable):
 - 136 • National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) MS 1 *Determination of*
137 *Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR) in Diagnostic Magnetic Resonance Imaging*
 - 138 • NEMA MS 6 *Determination of Signal-to-Noise Ratio and Image Uniformity for*
139 *Single-Channel, Non-Volume Coils in Diagnostic Magnetic Resonance Imaging*
140 *(MRI)*
 - 141 • NEMA MS 9 *Characterization of Phased Array Coils for Diagnostic Magnetic*
142 *Resonance Images (MRI)***Performance Criteria:** >140 (using the lowest SNR measure over all imaging coils,
143 planes, and anatomical regions)
Performance Criteria Source: Criteria are based on aggregated data submitted to FDA
144 in 510(k) submissions for MR coils previously found to be substantially equivalent.
Submission Information: Results summary and Declaration of Conformity (DoC)
148
- 149 2. **Test name:** Image Uniformity
150 **Methodology:** Conformance to one of the following FDA recognized consensus
151 standards (as applicable):
 - 152 • NEMA MS 3 *Determination of Image Uniformity in Diagnostic Magnetic*
153 *Resonance Images*
 - 154 • NEMA MS 6 *Determination of Signal-to-Noise Ratio and Image Uniformity for*
155 *Single-Channel, Non-Volume Coils in Diagnostic Magnetic Resonance Imaging*
156 *(MRI)*

⁶ Available at <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/safety-and-performance-based-pathway>

⁷ Available at <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/recommended-content-and-format-non-clinical-bench-performance-testing-information-premarket>

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- NEMA MS 9 *Characterization of Phased Array Coils for Diagnostic Magnetic Resonance Images (MRI)*
Performance Criteria: Worst-case non-uniformity < 50%
Performance Criteria Source: Criteria are based on aggregated data submitted to FDA in 510(k) submissions for MR coils previously found to be substantially equivalent.
Additional Considerations: The gray-scale uniformity map methods described in NEMA MS 3 section 2.3.3 Gray-Scale Uniformity Map, NEMA MS 6 section 2.6 Primary Measurement Procedure for Image Uniformity, and NEMA MS 9 (which refer to the previously mentioned sections of NEMA MS 3 and NEMA MS 6) are excluded because these methods do not provide results that lend to simple objective assessment and performance criteria.
Submission Information: Results summary and DoC
3. **Test name:** Surface heating
Methodology: No standardized test method currently available
Performance Criteria: <41°C for all potentially patient contacting parts under both normal use and single fault (coil not plugged in) conditions
Performance Criteria Source: FDA currently recognized version of ANSI/AAMI ES60601-1 *Medical electrical equipment – Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance*, Section 11.1.2 Temperature of Applied Parts
Submission Information: Complete test report
4. **Test name:** Acquired Image Quality
Methodology: Sample clinical images from all target anatomical locations reviewed to determine images produced by the device are of sufficient quality for diagnostic use.
Performance Criteria: Statement from a US Board Certified radiologist that images are of diagnostic quality and sample clinical images to support the ability of your system to generate diagnostic quality images.
Performance Criteria Source: FDA guidance document [Submission of Premarket Notifications for Magnetic Resonance Diagnostic Devices](#)⁸
Additional Considerations: Due to the subjective nature of this assessment, you should provide a small, representative subset of clinical images.
Submission Information: Statement from US Board Certified radiologist including a description of the sequences and anatomical regions reviewed by the radiologist and small, representative subset of clinical images including description of the target anatomical site, scan parameters employed, and the total imaging time for each image.
5. **Test name:** Decoupling circuit
Methodology: Inspection of circuit diagrams
Performance Criteria: Presence of decoupling mechanisms
Performance Criteria Source: FDA guidance document [Submission of Premarket Notifications for Magnetic Resonance Diagnostic Devices](#)

⁸ Available at <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/submission-premarket-notifications-magnetic-resonance-diagnostic-devices>

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- 199 **Submission Information:** Circuit diagrams and description of decoupling mechanism
200
- 201 6. **Test name:** EMC – Immunity, electrostatic discharge
202 **Methodology:** FDA currently recognized version of IEC 60601-1-2 *Medical electrical*
203 *equipment – Part 1-2: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance –*
204 *Collateral Standard: Electromagnetic disturbances – Requirements and tests*
205 **Performance Criteria:** pass at ± 8 kV contact, ± 2 kV, ± 4 kV, ± 8 kV, ± 15 kV air
206 **Performance Criteria Source:** Current version of FDA recognized consensus standard
207 IEC 61000-4-2: *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4-2: Testing and*
208 *measurement techniques*
209 **Additional Considerations:** Due to options within the standard, DoC should identify
210 options chosen
211 **Submission Information:** Results summary and DoC
212
- 213 7. **Test name:** General electrical/mechanical safety
214 **Methodology:** Current version of FDA consensus standards AAMI/ANSI ES60601-1
215 *Medical electrical equipment - Part 1: General Requirements for Basic Safety and*
216 *Essential Performance* and IEC 60601-2-33 *Medical electrical equipment - Part 2-33:*
217 *Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of magnetic*
218 *resonance equipment for medical diagnosis*
219 **Performance Criteria:** Demonstration that the device performs safely and as anticipated
220 in its intended use environment
221 **Performance Criteria Source:** FDA currently recognized version of AAMI/ANSI
222 ES60601-1: *Medical electrical equipment - Part 1: General Requirements for Basic*
223 *Safety and Essential Performance* and IEC 60601-2-33: *Medical electrical equipment -*
224 *Part 2-33: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of*
225 *magnetic resonance equipment for medical diagnosis*
226 **Additional Considerations:** Due to options within the standard, DoC should identify
227 options chosen
228 **Submission Information:** Results summary and DoC
229

Biocompatibility Evaluation:

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231
232 To identify the biocompatibility endpoints to include as part of your biocompatibility evaluation
233 you should use Attachment A of CDRH's guidance [Use of International Standard ISO 10993-1,](#)
234 [Biological evaluation of medical devices – Part 1: Evaluation and testing within a risk](#)
235 [management process,](#)⁹ referred to in the rest of this document as the CDRH Biocompatibility
236 Guidance for brevity. FDA considers the devices covered by this guidance to be categorized as
237 Surface Devices with intact skin and contact duration of ≤ 24 hours, and you should assess the
238 endpoints below per Attachment A of the CDRH Biocompatibility Guidance.

- 239
 - Cytotoxicity
- 240
 - Sensitization

⁹ Available at <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/use-international-standard-iso-10993-1-biological-evaluation-medical-devices-part-1-evaluation-and>

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- 241 • Irritation or Intracutaneous Reactivity

242
243 **Rationale in Lieu of Testing:** If the subject device is manufactured from the identical raw
244 materials using identical manufacturing processes as a predicate device with the same type and
245 duration of tissue contact, and any changes in geometry are not expected to impact the biological
246 response, this is typically sufficient to establish substantially equivalent biocompatibility, if
247 documentation such as that outlined in Attachment F of the CDRH Biocompatibility Guidance is
248 also provided.

249
250 **Testing:** If you determined that testing is needed to address some or all of the identified
251 biocompatibility endpoints, FDA recommends that complete test reports be provided for all tests
252 performed unless a declaration of conformity without supplemental information can be
253 appropriately provided, per Attachment E of the CDRH Biocompatibility Guidance. Any test-
254 specific positive, negative, and/or reagent controls should perform as expected, and protocol
255 deviations should be thoroughly described and justified; however, note that certain protocol
256 deviations may invalidate comparison to the performance criteria listed below and require
257 submission of a Traditional, Special, or Abbreviated 510(k).

258
259 8. **Test name:** Biocompatibility endpoints (identified from CDRH Biocompatibility
260 Guidance)

261 **Methodology:** FDA currently-recognized versions of biocompatibility consensus
262 standards

263 **Performance Criteria:** All direct or indirect tissue contacting components of the device
264 and device-specific instruments should be determined to have an acceptable biological
265 response.

266 **Performance Criteria Source:** The CDRH Biocompatibility Guidance

267 **Additional Considerations:** For any biocompatibility test samples with an adverse
268 biological response, the biocompatibility evaluation should explain why the level of
269 toxicity seen is acceptable. Some comparison testing against a legally marketed predicate
270 may be necessary (and is considered acceptable under the Safety and Performance Based
271 Pathway) to support such a rationale as explained in the CDRH Biocompatibility
272 Guidance. For standard biocompatibility test methods that include comparison device
273 control samples, the legally marketed comparison device control samples should perform
274 as expected, as specified above for the subject device samples.

275 **Submission Information:** Refer to CDRH Biocompatibility Guidance